

6 Organization and Responsibilities

The parks' fire and fuels management organization is spread over three divisions. This arrangement creates an organization structure encouraging communication amongst park staff, benefiting both fire management and park operations affected by fire management actions. The majority of fire management staff are within the Division of Fire and Visitor Management. Fire staff are also in the Division of Natural Resources, and the Division of Interpretation and Cultural Resources (Appendix G).

Communications for the fire and fuels program are also strengthened by the Fire Management Committee and district management teams. The purpose of the committee is to assist the superintendent and the fire management officer in the development, implementation, critique, and review of the fire management program. The FMC does not have decision authority but it makes recommendations on management to the superintendent. The Fire Management Committee (FMC) is chaired by the Chief of Natural Resources. The Committee includes:

- Chief of Natural Resources, Chair
- Chief of Fire and Visitor Management, Deputy Chair
- Fire Management Officer
- Supervisory Natural Resources Mgmt Specialist
- Science Advisor
- Research Scientist (BRD)
- Fire Ecologist (BRD)
- Public Information Officer
- Safety Manager

In addition, there will be one district ranger, one district facility manager, and one district interpreter. At least one of these must come from the Sequoia Management Team and one from the Kings Canyon Management Team. District managers will generally serve a two- year rotating assignment with their counterparts in the other district.

The two district management teams are composed of district facility managers, district rangers, district FMOs, district interpreters, resource managers, and park concession/planning personnel. Each group works with the district FMOs to formulate the fire and fuels management program thereby minimizing impacts to other park operations or planning activities which could be affected by fire management.

ORGANIZATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Superintendent

- Has ultimate responsibility and accountability for all fire and fuels management activities. Certifies Fire and Fuels Management Plan and all other plans written within that framework

(i.e. WFIPs and their periodic validations, WFSAs, burn plans, and mechanical treatment plans). Approval constitutes the authority to proceed with the actions outlined.

Chief of Fire and Visitor Management

- Reviews all plans and recommends to superintendent.
- Ensures communication occurs with Chief of Natural Resources, as well as the rest of parks' squad, on fire and fuels management issues. Ensures communication occurs within division on fire management issues (between park FMO, district rangers, and wilderness specialist).
- Serves as Fire Management Committee member.

Chief of Natural Resources

- Reviews all plans for acceptance by superintendent.
- Ensures communication occurs with Chief of Fire and Visitor Management, as well as the rest of parks' squad, on fire and fuels management issues. Ensures communication occurs within division on fire management issues (between fire planner, GIS specialist, biologists, and air quality specialist).
- Serves as Fire Management Committee chair.

Fire Management Officer

- Responsible for management of parks' fire and aviation programs.
- Ensures coordination with all divisions and FMC on fire planning and operations issues.
- Ensures coordination with external agencies for interagency cooperation in fire and fuels management planning and operations.
- Develops parks' fire program budget annually (FIREPRO) ensuring a cost efficient program.

Fire Budget Assistant

- Ensures program managers construct budgets in all divisions.
- Ensures program managers track costs for fire and aviation programs.
- Ensures personnel actions and travel documentation are completed for the branch.
- Coordinates with regional FIREPRO budget representative and park budget officer on budget issues.
- Serves as subject matter expert for all fire business management issues.

Communications Center/Cache Manager (Supervisory Dispatcher)

- Serves as the primary person to ensure fire and aviation dispatch procedures are developed, revised, and implemented.
- Ensures 1202 data base for wildland fire responses is current. Integrates this work with GIS specialist for GIS analysis.
- Manages wildland fire and all risk qualifications and training database for all park employees. Park fire and aviation training officer.
- Catalogues all weather data for parks' weather stations, manages fire danger rating analyses for parks.

- Ensures logistical support for all fire/aviation planning and operations.

Fuels Management Specialist

- Principal staff specialist for fuels management.
- Ensures appropriate fire monitoring for all fire incidents.
- Responsible for combining the fuels management programs from each district into one park program. Has decision authority on park priorities for treatments. Formulates annual fuels treatment plan working from 5- year plan.
- Takes lead on yearly fire GIS analysis planning update.
- Coordinates projects with fuels planners from cooperating agencies.
- Ensures District FMOs and burn bosses comply with park smoke management protocols for all wildland fire and prescribed fire operations.
- Principal staff specialist for wildland fire behavior prediction and analysis, and for climatological data analysis.

Sequoia District FMO

- Responsible for district's wildland fire management program.
- Develops and proposes district's yearly fuels treatment program.
- Coordinates use of district resources in support of park- wide project/wildland fire priorities.
- Manages district fire management budget.
- Manages aviation program for both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
- Coordinates fire management activities with permittees and private inholders in the district.

Kings Canyon District FMO

- Responsible for district's wildland fire management program.
- Develops and proposes district's yearly fuels treatment program.
- Coordinates use of district resources in support of park- wide project/wildland fire priorities.
- Manages district fire management budget.
- Manages structural fire program for both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
- Coordinates fire management activities with permittees and private inholders in the district.

Cache Manager

- Manages logistics in support of all wildland fire management operations.
- Ensures inventory control for all wildland fire and aviation equipment/supplies.
- Participates as required by supervisor in ordering of vehicles.

Fire Planner

- Coordinates environmental analysis and periodic revisions of the *Fire and Fuels Management Plan*.

- Serves as parks' primary representative with interagency partners on strategic, long- term smoke and air quality issues.
- Ensures that results from fire effects monitoring and fire research are integrated into the fire and fuels management program.

Fire Effects Ecologist

- Develops and implements fire effects monitoring program based upon structural and process objectives for the vegetation communities.
- Analyzes and reports results from monitoring data so that fire management operations can be adjusted to better meet structural and process objectives.

Fire Research Coordinator

- Coordinates park research needs.
- Summarizes the significant findings of all park fire research in an annual report that is circulated internally and externally.

Air Quality Management Specialist

- Park senior air quality specialist.
- Coordinates air quality data and information exchange with Fuels Management Specialist.
- Provides quality assurance/quality control advice for smoke and weather technician.

Fire GIS Specialist

- Maintains fire databases.
- Provides project level spatial analysis and mapping for all fires.
- Provides spatial analysis and map products for fire and fuels management planning.

Fire Information and Education Specialist

- Communicates with internal and external audiences about fire and fuels management program activities.
- Facilitates year- round educational opportunities about fire ecology, history, and management.
- Serves as liaison with media outlets.

FIRE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

The fire and fuels management program funding comes from two sources, FIREPRO and National Park Service ONPS funds. As of 2002, annual program funding from both sources totals approximately \$3,000,000 exclusive of fuels treatment project funds, emergency funds for wildland actions, and construction or other special project actions. ONPS funds account for about \$500,000 of this figure covering aviation personnel, a program assistant, a fire planner, a district FMO, and the parks' FMO.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND CONTACTS

The following table lists the national, regional, and local agreements that pertain to the implementation of this *Fire and Fuels Management Plan*. Copies of each agreement are filed in the “Fire Agreements” binder in the Fire Management Office.

Table 6-1 – Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), Memorandums of Agreement (MOA), and Operating Plans Related to Fire and Fuels Management Program

| Title of Agreement | Cooperators | Key Contacts | Purpose of Agreement |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| State and Regional | | | |
| Master Joint Operations Agreement: Four-Party (MOA) | Bureau of Land Management, California and Nevada National Park Service, Pacific West Region US Forest Service, Regions 4-6 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | N/a | Coordinates state-wide wildland fire protection |
| Cooperative Agreement for Local Government Fire Suppression Assistance to Forest Agencies: Five-Party Agreement (MOA) | State of California, Office of Emergency Services California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection US Forest Service, Regions 5 Bureau of Land Management, California National Park Service, Pacific West Region | N/a | Allows for local government involvement in state and federal wildland fire actions |
| Cooperative Agreement Among State of California Military Department (MOA) | State of California Military Department California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Bureau of Land Management, California US Forest Service, Regions 5 National Park Service, Pacific West Region State of California, Office of Emergency Services | N/a | Allows for state activation of military including modular airborne firefighting systems (MAFFS) |
| National Park Service and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Conservation Camp Agreement (MOA) | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection National Park Service, Pacific West Region | N/a | Directs how to utilize conservation camp crews on fire and fuels operations |
| Operating Plan for Incident Billing Procedures (MOA) | Bureau of Land Management, California National Park Service, Pacific West Region Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento Area US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region US Forest Service, Regions 5 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | N/a | Ensures state and federal agencies full and equitable cost recovery for wildland fire operations |
| Local | | | |

| Title of Agreement | Cooperators | Key Contacts | Purpose of Agreement |
|---|---|---|--|
| Central Sierra Operating Plan | Bureau of Land Management, Central California Region National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yosemite US Forest Service: Eldorado, Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia, Sierra, and Stanislaus California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Amador-El Dorado, Tuolumne-Calaveras, Madera-Mariposa-Merced, Fresno-Kings, and Tulare | Doug Hicks Foothills Division Chief Fresno-Kings Unit Don Kandarian Assistant Forest Fire Management Officer Sierra National Forest | Operating Plan tiered from the Four-Party Agreement listed above |
| Fire Management Operating Plan and Non-Emergency Assistance Agreement | National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yosemite US Forest Service: Inyo, Sequoia, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Sierra | Bill Kaage Fire Management Officer Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Tom Nichols Fire Management Officer Yosemite National Park Craig Barnes Forest Fire Management Officer Inyo National Forest Aaron Gelobter Forest Fire Management Officer Sequoia National Forest Dave Kohut Forest Fire Management Officer Sierra National Forest | Allows for exchange of resources for fire management activities and non-fire emergencies |
| Operating Plan for the South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Teams | US Forest Service: Sierra, Sequoia, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Stanislaus National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yosemite Kern County Fire Bureau of Land Management: Central California Region | Carol Coltra Center Manager Sierra National Forest Emergency Coordination Center | Outlines plan for mobilizing Type II Province Team |

| Title of Agreement | Cooperators | Key Contacts | Purpose of Agreement |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sequoia National Forest Emergency Communications Center Interagency Expanded Dispatch Plan | US Forest Service: Sequoia and Giant Sequoia National Monument Bureau of Indian Affairs: Tulare Reservation National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Bureau of Land Management: Central California Region | Julie Mendenhall Center Manager Central California Interagency Coordination Center | Outlines plan for setting up expanded dispatch for large incidents |
| Memorandum of Understanding Between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Reedley College, and Sequoia Lake YMCA Camp | National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Reedley College Sequoia Lake YMCA Camp | Bill Kaage Fire Management Officer Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wayne Bemis Reedley College Sequoia Lake YMCA Camp Manager | Allows educational exchange between parks and the college through college forestry camp activities on federal lands in the vicinity of Sequoia Lake |
| Memorandum of Understanding between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Three Rivers / Lemon Cove Business Association | National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Three Rivers/Lemon Cove Business Association | Jody Lyle Fire Information and Education Specialist Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Tom Marshall Three Rivers / Lemon Cove Business Association | Allows for cooperative maintenance of joint bulletin board in Three Rivers |
| Memorandum of Understanding between San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and Land Management and Fire Protection Agencies | San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District US Forest Service: Sequoia, Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sierra, and Los Padres National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks California State Department of Parks and Recreation Bureau of Land Management: California US Fish and Wildlife Service: San Luis and Kern National Wildlife Refuge Complexes California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | Hector Gerrera San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District | Allows for smoke planning in local Air District |

| Title of Agreement | Cooperators | Key Contacts | Purpose of Agreement |
|--|--|--|--|
| Interagency Agreement between Inyo National Forest and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | US Forest Service: Inyo National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | Park Fuels Management Specialist Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | Allows for smoke management monitoring of park fires from Inyo National Forest land |
| Southern Sierra Geographic Information Cooperative (MOA) | US Forest Service: Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Tulare Unit Bureau of Land Management: Central California Region Kern County Fire | Pat Lineback GIS Specialist Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | Allows for interagency fire and fuels management planning using GIS |
| Memorandum of Understanding between Tulare County and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | Tulare County National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks | Bill Kaage Fire Management Officer Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Gary Marshall Foothills Division Chief Tulare County | Allows for exchange of resources for structural fire and wildland urban interface fires |
| Southern Sierra Fire Management Officer Group (MOU in draft) | National Park Service: Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yosemite Bureau of Land Management: Central California Region US Forest Service: Stanislaus, Sierra, Sequoia, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Inyo | Fire Management Officers for all units | Allows for coordination among federal southern Sierra land management agencies on fire, non-fire, and air quality issues |